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(54) A tobacco pouch

(57) A tobacco pouch (2) comprises a first compartment (4) for storing tobacco, and a second compartment (6) for storing a packet (8) of cigarette papers. The packet (8) is inserted through a first slot (10) and the papers are sequentially obtained through a second slot (14, 16, 18). Slot 10 is closed by an adhesive strip (20).

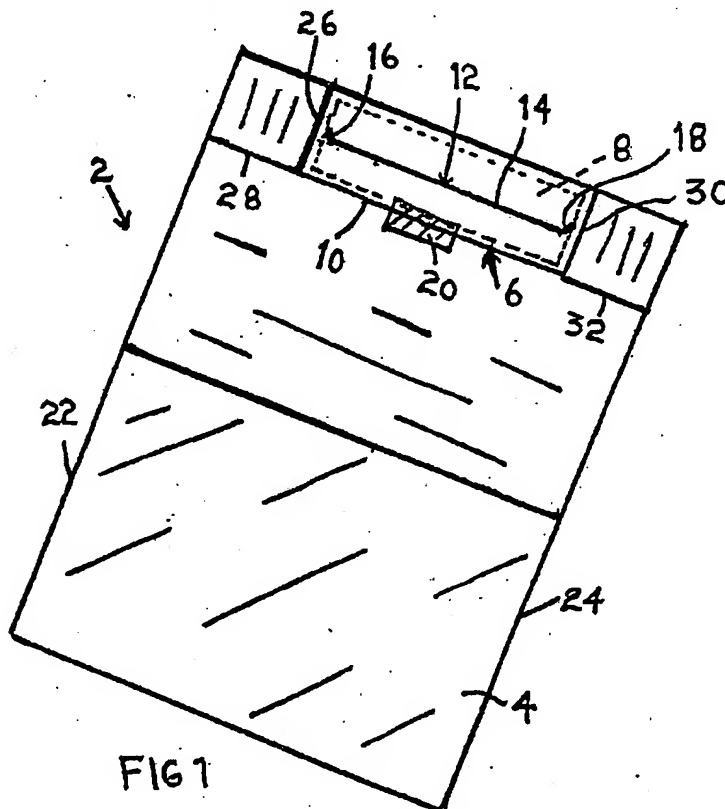


FIG 7

At least one drawing originally filed was informal and the print reproduced here is taken from a later filed formal copy.

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1982.

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A TOBACCO POUCH

This invention relates to a tobacco pouch.

Tobacco pouches are well known. They are usually in the form of a wallet and they are also usually sold with tobacco in them from tobacconists and other shops. The tobacco pouches are of course used by persons rolling their own cigarettes and, in order for the persons to roll their own cigarettes, they need a packet of cigarette papers. Persons rolling their own cigarettes invariably put the packet of cigarette papers into the tobacco pouch along with the tobacco. Moisture in the tobacco causes the papers to stick together and this can be annoying to persons rolling their own cigarettes as the papers pull out of the cigarette/^{paper}packet in a concertina fashion. If the cigarette papers do not pull out in a concertina fashion, then they stick to the actual packet, which is equally annoying. In addition to the problem of sticking cigarette papers, there occurs the further problem that the packet of cigarette papers tends to get covered in tobacco. As the papers are pulled out, tobacco also gets pulled out and it usually falls on the floor. This is both messy and wasteful. Persons rolling their own cigarettes tend to put up with the above disadvantages because they require their packet of cigarette papers to be conveniently on hand when they wish to roll a cigarette and so they store it in the tobacco pouch as mentioned above.

It would be a very considerable advantage if the above problems could be avoided or reduced, whilst continuing to provide persons rolling their own cigarettes with the convenience of having their packet of cigarette papers readily to hand. It is an aim of the present invention to provide a tobacco pouch which enables this.

Accordingly, this invention provides a tobacco pouch comprising a first compartment for storing tobacco, and a second compartment for storing a packet of cigarette papers.

Preferably, the second compartment is of such a size that the packet of cigarette papers is a close sliding fit in the compartment.

Advantageously, the second compartment has a first slot through which the packet of cigarette papers is inserted into the second compartment, and a second slot through which the cigarette papers can sequentially be obtained from the packet of cigarette papers.

Although any type of second slot may be employed, it is preferred that the second slot is in the form of a slit. The slit can thus be formed simply by cutting without having the need to actually remove cut material. This is advantageous because cut material could possibly get lost in large scale manufacturing operations and it is obviously undesirable for the cut material to become lost in tobacco. Furthermore, by having a second slot in the form of a slit, a flap can be formed which helps to guide the cigarette papers as they are sequentially obtained from the packet of cigarette papers.

Advantageously, the tobacco pouch may include fastener means for fastening the second compartment in order to ensure that the packet of cigarette papers remains in the second compartment during use.

5 The fastener means may be a strip of adhesive tape. The strip of adhesive tape may be that strip of adhesive tape that is normally used to close a tobacco pouch as it is sold in shops.

10 The tobacco pouch may be made of any of the existing materials. Thus it will usually be made of a plastics material but it may also be made of other material such for example as leather. Where a plastics material is employed, various seams in the tobacco pouch can be secured together by adhesives, ultrasonic welding, or heat sealing.

15 The tobacco pouch can be sold in various sizes such for example as the presently available sizes. By way of example, it is mentioned that the tobacco pouch can be sold in 50gm and 25gm sizes.

20 The cigarette/^{paper}packet can be a standard cigarette/^{paper}packet. The cigarette papers can also be standard cigarette papers. The cigarette papers will usually be gummed to facilitate rolling into cigarettes. Gummed papers need however not necessarily be employed. The paper can be any suitable and appropriate type of paper such for example as rice paper.

25 The present invention extends to the tobacco pouch when provided with tobacco and/or a packet of cigarette papers.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described solely by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 shows a tobacco pouch; and

5 Figure 2 shows a packet of cigarette papers.

Referring to the drawings, there is shown a tobacco pouch 2 comprising a first compartment 4 for storing a packet 8 of cigarette papers. As can be seen from Figure 1, a second compartment 6 is of a length and depth just sufficient to accommodate the packet 8 of cigarette papers as a close sliding fit.

The second compartment 6 has a first slot 10 through which the packet of cigarette papers is inserted into the second compartment 6. The second compartment 6 also has a second slot 12 through which the cigarette papers can sequentially be obtained from the packet 8 of cigarette papers. The second slot 12 is in the form of a slit having a lengthwise extending cut 14 and edge cuts 16,18. The cuts 14,16,18 define a flap which is of use in helping to guide the cigarette papers as they are pulled out of the packet 8 through the second slot 12. Also, since the second slot 12 is just formed by making the cuts 14,16,18 it will be apparent that material of the tobacco pouch 2 does not have to be completely cut out and removed and this avoids the possibility of losing the material in tobacco, which is undesirable.

When the packet 8 of cigarette papers is in the second compartment 6, the first slot 10 can be closed by fastener means in the form of a strip of adhesive tape 20. This strip of adhesive tape 20 can be the same strip of adhesive tape that is normally used with known tobacco pouches 2 when they are sold, the strip of adhesive tape 20 then being employed to keep the tobacco pouch 2 in a folded condition so that tobacco in the first compartment 4 is not spoilt.

The first compartment 4 can be formed by folding over a length of material and welding along seams 22,24. The second compartment 6 can be formed by making the cuts 14,16,18, folding over a strip of material and welding along seams 26,28 and 30,32.

As shown in Figure 2, the packet 8 of cigarette papers is a standard packet which is formed of cardboard and which has a slot 34 through which individual cigarette papers 36 are removed. As is well known, the packet 8 has a flap 38 which folds over the top of the slot 34 to protect the cigarette papers 36. As the packet 8 of cigarette papers is inserted into the second compartment 6, then the flap 38 will be folded to the position shown in Figure 2.

It will be seen from the drawings that the tobacco pouch 2 provides the convenience of enabling the packet 8 of cigarette papers always to be available. In addition, the tobacco pouch 2 avoids the need to place the packet 8 of cigarette papers into the first compartment 4 along with the tobacco, and this avoids the cigarette papers sticking together or to the packet

8, and it also avoids spilling tobacco as would tend to occur if the packet 8 had to keep being taken out of the first compartment 4 in order to obtain a cigarette paper 36 for the purpose of rolling a cigarette.

5 It is to be appreciated that the embodiment of the invention described above with reference to the accompanying drawings has been given by way of example only.

It is envisaged that the tobacco pouch may be sold under the trade mark CONFREE.

CLAIMS

1. A tobacco pouch comprising a first compartment for storing tobacco, and a second compartment for storing a packet of cigarette papers.

5 2. A tobacco pouch according to claim 1 in which the second compartment is of such a size that the packet of cigarette papers is a close sliding fit in the compartment.

10 3. A tobacco pouch according to claim 1 or claim 2 in which the second compartment has a first slot through which the packet of cigarette papers is inserted into the second compartment, and a second slot through which the cigarette papers can sequentially be obtained from the packet of cigarette papers.

4. A tobacco pouch according to any one of the preceding claims in which the second slot is in the form of a slit.

15 5. A tobacco pouch according to any one of the preceding claims and including fastener means for fastening the second compartment in order to ensure that the packet of cigarette papers remains in the second compartment during use.

6. A tobacco pouch according to claim 5 in which the fastener means is a strip of adhesive tape.

7. A tobacco pouch according to any one of the preceding claims and which is made of a plastics material.

5 8. A tobacco pouch according to any one of the preceding claims when provided with tobacco and/or a packet of cigarette papers.

10 9. A tobacco pouch according to any one of the preceding claims substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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